# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2599
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
IMPORT OF LNG FROM IRAN
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether under a pact signed with Iran, India is bound to pick up one producing and one semi-discovered oilfield in Iran in return for buying five million tonnes of LNG from Iran for 25 years;

(b) if so, the precise terms of the pact indicating the modus oprandi for supply of LNG;

(c) whether Iran has sent a list of five producing and semi-discovered blocks under the pact offering to share equity with an Indian Government firm; and

(d) if so, the Government`s response thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): India and Iran have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 27-1-03 for furthering mutual cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector. In terms of this MOU, a Joint Working Group (JWG) has been constitutedDuring the first meeting of this JWG, held in New Delhi/Tehran in May 2003, both sides agreed to develop a package of cooperation in the oil & gas sector which inter alia included import of 5 MMTPA (million metric tonne per annum) of LNG from Iran for 25 years, to be taken in two phases each of 2.5 MMTPA, and negotiating award of a significant sized discovered Iranian oilfield and a semi-discovered Iranian oilfield to an Indian public sector undertaking like ONGC Videsh Limited subject to technical and commercial competitiveness.

In terms of aforesaid JWG meeting, the Iranian side has forwarded a list of fields and the same are being evaluated.